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# 楽友

Raku-Yu

Kyoto  
University  
Newsletter

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### Editor's Notes

In his foreword to *Raku-Yu*, entitled "Kyoto University's Approach to Internationalization and Globalization," President Hiroshi Matsumoto emphasizes the significance of educating "globally-minded individuals who are able to think for themselves and make decisions autonomously." The cultivation of the qualities he envisions is indeed at the forefront of the challenges facing higher education today, in both the sciences and the humanities. In their apparently "objective" thinking scientists cannot in fact disengage from ethical judgment, while those involved in the humanities must not fail to confront the practical realities of the world. Such insights are emphasized in the philosophical tradition of American pragmatism, where the inevitable entanglement of facts and values is richly realized, and they reveal the need, today more than ever, for an interdisciplinary approach in curriculum planning. Dialogue between different perspectives helps cultivate the powers of the imagination, which extend possibilities of education and research beyond the constraints of the culture of accountability. In both the sciences and the humanities, it is the imagination developed in this way that is crucial to the kinds of critical thinking most needed in the 21st century.

### Cover Photo: "Ono no Komachi" from "Sanju-roku Kasen" (Thirty-six Poetry Immortals)

During the mid-Heian Period (794-1192), Kinto Fujiwara, a poet and scholar of poetry, compiled a collection of poems by selecting works by 36 poets, who subsequently became well known as the *sanju-roku kasen* (thirty-six poetry immortals). Henceforth, many books and picture scrolls were created, highlighted by sets of their portraits and poems. The Kyoto University Library owns one such book.

The cover of this issue displays a portrait of Ono no Komachi (Komachi Ono), one of the 36 poets, who is well known in Japan as a beautiful court lady and an author of passionate, romantic poems. In fact, she is commonly known in Japan as one of the three most beautiful women in the world, the other two being Cleopatra and Yang Guifei (the latter having been loved by the Chinese Emperor Xuan Zong of the Tang Dynasty). The real life of Komachi Ono, however, remains a mystery. Excepting that she once served at the Imperial court, we do not know when she was born or when she passed away. In various parts of Japan, there are many legendary tombs of Ono, together with associated legends.

Like many of her contemporary poets, she primarily composed romantic poems, in which she depicts in passionate and at times sorrowful tones her fear of change in her lover's sentiments over the passing of time. In other poems, she laments the decline of her own beauty. In the poem on the cover of this issue, she describes her bitterness toward the instability of her lover's mind.

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### A Note on Order of Names

As a general rule, names appearing in *Raku-Yu* are written in given name/family name order.



This name was taken from the assembly hall called "*Raku-Yu Kaikan*" that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto University.



**Hiroshi MATSUMOTO** Since assuming the top position in 2008, President Hiroshi Matsumoto has been committed to various initiatives, including reforms of existing systems and inauguration of new programs, to advance the internationalization of Kyoto University, on which he places utmost priority. These commitments are driven by his strong aspiration to foster future leaders. President Matsumoto is deeply concerned about the present situation of both individuals and society. His observation is that people are losing their power to think as a result of advanced technologies that have automated so many tasks in our daily lives. At the same time, he believes in the power of “education,” which, according to President Matsumoto, connotes “bringing out various things from within an individual.” “I believe that the education at Kyoto University should aim at fostering individuals who are able to think for themselves, create value, and act autonomously,” he commented. To the question of in what ways Kyoto University has changed over the past four years, he replied, “A large rock has just begun to move, since the force we have been applying has overcome considerable static frictional force. The rock will continue to roll steadily, since the rolling friction will be relatively small.” Indeed, there is no stopping the huge rock once it begins to roll.



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## Kyoto University’s Approach to Internationalization and Globalization

Before discussing the “internationalization” of Kyoto University, I would like to point out that there are no national borders in learning. When researchers are searching for truth, their brains work independently from their respective nationalities or ethnicities. Since research activities at Kyoto University have earned a considerable reputation worldwide, we can say that the University has achieved an academic level recognized by international society.

If we consider the extent of the “internationalization” of Kyoto University in terms of personnel exchange with overseas universities, however, it is difficult to assert that the University has achieved an advanced level of “internationalization.” For instance, we do not have sufficient personnel exchange programs with leading universities in the world, including Harvard and Oxford universities. We cannot underestimate this factor even when we take into consideration the geographical disadvantage of the University, situated in the Far East.

Before delving into this issue, however, we must first define “internationalization” and “globalization.” In my view, internationalization refers to developing our ability to respond to globalization, which can be defined as an ongoing process towards building a single united entity on the earth. We absolutely need a global perspective when we address the environmental problems of this planet. In the present age of globalization, it is imperative to hold a global perspective as our common spatial axis.

At the same time, we must also study the long histories of the earth, the human race, and Japan. In other words, we must hold a historic perspective as our time axis, so as to build our capacity to anticipate future trends. At Kyoto University, I believe that our efforts towards internationalization should be geared toward improving our capacity to prepare for radical social changes in the future, while maintaining these spatial and time axes as our basic framework.

I once heard that the progress of civilization has allowed people to do many things without thinking. If everything becomes automated, as a result of the progress of civilization, and if people lose their power to think, this would be a negative impact of civilization. At Kyoto University, we hope to foster globally-minded individuals who are able to think for themselves and make decisions autonomously, some of whom will develop into global leaders in their chosen fields. To this end, we are currently committed to various initiatives, including the reform of the entrance examination system, the International Advanced Educational Institute Program, the Graduate School of Advanced Leadership *Shishukan*, and the *Hakubi* Project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Matsumoto".

Hiroshi MATSUMOTO  
President of Kyoto University

# Evolution of Kyoto University Alumni Associations Outside Japan —Serving as Bridges with the University—

## 1. Kyoto University Alumni Associations

At the end of the 19th century, when Kyoto University was established as one of Japan's imperial universities, it comprised four colleges: the colleges of Law, Letters, Science and Technology, and Medicine. Graduates of these colleges formed their own respective alumni associations, including Yushinkai (law), Ibunkai (letters), and Shirankai (medicine).

Over the long history of the university, individual faculties, graduate schools and courses have formed alumni associations, but there had been no alumni association for the entire university until November 2006, when a federation of all alumni associations worldwide—the Kyoto University Alumni—was established with the aim of contributing to the development of the entire University. This is the seventh year since the establishment of the new organization.

The Kyoto University Alumni loosely unites various existing alumni associations: those formed by former students and researchers of individual faculties, colleges, graduate schools, etc.; regional alumni associations formed in and outside Japan, and alumni associations of various student circles and clubs. The Kyoto University Alumni, with a membership that now exceeds 180,000, works to maintain good communications and foster friendly relations among those diverse organizations.

At present, the Kyoto University Alumni comprises 47 alumni associations of departments/faculties/colleges, 39 regional alumni associations (19 in Japan and an additional 20 outside Japan), and three associations of student circles.

## 2. Alumni Associations outside Japan

If we compare the Kyoto University

Alumni to a tapestry, we can liken the alumni associations of departments/faculties/colleges to vertical threads, and regional alumni associations to horizontal threads. Since the regional alumni associations are organized by former students residing in specific countries, regions, or cities, their members comprise graduates from diverse faculties or colleges of the university. This enables members to foster friendships and inspire one another by sharing knowledge and information, transcending the boundaries of the academic fields they specialized in.

Kyoto University hopes that alumni residing in various regions in the world will organize many more regional alumni associations, to promote information exchange and foster friendships in their respective regions.

### (1) Present Situation

Kyoto University receives a total of over 2,500 international students (the majority being graduate students) and researchers annually from more than 100

countries. At the same time, many graduates from the university are studying at overseas universities and research institutes. In addition, many alumni reside in various parts of the world, engaging themselves in research programs or in business activities.

At present, there are nine associations formed by alumni who once studied at Kyoto University as either international students or researchers. In addition, 11 associations have been formed primarily by Japanese businesspersons, who graduated from the university and are currently residing in overseas countries. (See the table below.)

Kyoto University hopes that alumni in various regions in the world will maintain their friendly relations and strengthen mutual ties. If there is an alumni association in your region, we hope that you will become a member. If not, we hope that you will form one by combining the efforts of alumni in your region, and that the new regional association will join the Kyoto University Alumni.

Alumni Associations Formed by Former International Students		Alumni Associations Formed by Japanese Businesspersons	
Country	Alumni Association	Country	Alumni Association
China	Kyo-Kyo-Kai (Kyoto University Beijing, China Alumni)	U.S.A	Rakuyukai@San Francisco
	Kyoto University China Alumni		Kyoto University Washington, D.C. Alumni
	Kyoto University Hong Kong Alumni Association		New York Rakuyukai
Indonesia	Himpunan Alumni Kyoto University (HAKU)	China	Kyosen-kai (Kyoto University China, Shanghai Alumni)
Korea	Kyoto University Korea Alumni	Europe	Euro Rakuyukai
Laos	Kyoto University Network in Laos	Indonesia	Kyoto University Jakarta Alumni
Thailand	Kyoto Union Club (KUC)	Malaysia	Kyoto University Malaysia Alumni named Dark Blue no kai
Taiwan	Kyoto University Taiwan Alumni	Philippines	Kyoto University Manila Alumni named Nohsei-kai
Vietnam	Kyoto University Vietnamese Alumni	Singapore	Singapore RAKUSEIKAI
		Thailand	Kyoto University Bangkok Alumni
		Vietnam	Kyoto University Hanoi Alumni Association named Yoshida-kai

Alumni Associations outside Japan (as of August 1, 2012)



## (2) Activities of Regional Alumni Associations

Members of regional alumni associations enjoy close mutual ties and friendships, which they strengthen on such occasions as information exchange meetings and social gatherings. In this issue, *Raku-Yu* will introduce activities of a regional alumni association formed by former international students of Kyoto University, and another alumni association formed by Japanese businesspersons.

[1] On January 28, 2012, *Himpunan Alumni Kyoto University (HAKU)*, an alumni association in Indonesia) played a leading role in organizing the 9th Kyoto University Southeast Asian Forum, held at Mulawarman University in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. HAKU was established in 2007 by former Indonesian students of Kyoto University.

Since 2007, Kyoto University Southeast Asian Forums have been organized annually in both Indonesia and Thailand, with the aim of sharing with Southeast Asian researchers the academic outcomes of Kyoto University, thereby benefiting Southeast Asian society with world-class academic achievements of the university.

[2] In September 2011, Singapore Rakuseikai was formed by Japanese alumni residing in Singapore. On



Alumni Associations Formed by Former International Students (9 associations)  
Alumni Associations Formed by Japanese Businesspersons (11 associations)

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January 30, 2012, its members held a meeting in Singapore with Executive Vice-President Yuzo Ohnishi and other members from Kyoto University. The meeting began with a briefing by Executive Vice-President Ohnishi on the current status and recent news regarding Kyoto University. Participants then held lively discussions on a variety of topics, ranging from global political and economic issues to challenges that some participants had encountered in their daily lives outside Japan.

## (3) Conclusion

Since the Kyoto University Alumni was established only a few years ago, it still remains in the early stage of its evolution. Even though many alumni reside or work in Africa, the Middle East, and Oceania, there are no alumni organizations in these regions (See map above). Seeking generous cooperation from alumni in these regions, Kyoto University hopes to establish as many

associations there as possible.

We hope that close communication will be maintained between overseas alumni associations, Kyoto University, and the Kyoto University Alumni. Through such networks, we hope to share up-to-date information and the latest knowledge obtained by researchers of Kyoto University in diverse academic fields. We believe such knowledge will be helpful for alumni engaged in various activities that benefit people in their respective countries. Moreover, we hope that their activities will stimulate interest among young students and researchers in the advanced education and cutting-edge research programs available at Kyoto University.

Finally, the university truly hopes that overseas alumni associations will serve as bridges between their respective societies and Kyoto University, and that we can work together to forge ahead towards a bright future.



Participants in the 9th Kyoto University Southeast Asian Forum with Executive Vice-President Ohnishi



Singapore Rakuseikai members held a dinner party at an open terrace restaurant, with Executive Vice-President Ohnishi



## Seifu-so Designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan (July 9, 2012)

On July 9, 2012, Seifu-so, a former villa of Duke Kinmochi Saionji, now possessed by Kyoto University, was designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan. In Japan, of the various tangible cultural properties, such as structures, art works, and handicrafts, those with particularly high historic, artistic, or academic value are designated as Important Cultural Properties by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The Minister designated the following 12 Seifu-so structures: the main building, annex, storehouse, adjunct facility, guard box, barn, tea-ceremony house, *tomomachi* (waiting room for attendants/drivers), *hakamatsuki oyobi machiai* (waiting facility for tea ceremony

guests), first inner gate, second inner gate, and the front gate.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs, responsible for Important Cultural Properties, commented in the Council for Cultural Affairs Report as follows: Seifu-so, comprising *sukiya*-style houses of outstanding design and attached facilities, represents the essence of modern Japanese architecture. The *sukiya*-style houses feature highly sophisticated architectural technology, along with exclusive timber and other building materials.

### [About Seifu-so]

Seifu-so comprises a group of structures in the modern Japanese architectural style, built between the end of

the Meiji Period (1868–1912) and the early Taisho Period (1912–1926), as a private villa of Duke Kinmochi Saionji (1849–1940, who served twice as prime minister). In 1944, the Sumitomo family, who owned the villa, donated it to Kyoto University along with its garden. Since then, the University has been using the villa as a guest house, and as a facility for education and convention purposes.

In 1951, the garden was designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty by the national government. In 2007, Seifu-so was registered as a tangible cultural property under the “structures” category. As a result of the recent designation, Seifu-so has become the first group of structures at Kyoto University recognized as an Important Cultural Property.



The front gate



Guest room of the main building



The garden



The main building (left), annex (right) and the garden



Hakamatsuki oyobi machiai



Tomomachi and tea-ceremony house

## Annular Solar Eclipse: An Observation Event and Lecture

(May 21, 2012)

During the early morning of May 21, 2012, an annular solar eclipse was visible in many areas in Japan, including Kyoto, where it was observable for the first time in 282 years.

On that day, an observation event was held from 6:30 a.m. on the grounds of the Faculty of Agriculture through joint efforts of the Kyoto University Museum and Kwasan and Hida Observatories of the Graduate School of Science.



Observation event

Because of the fine weather, which was ideal for the observation, some 8,000 people gathered at this event, exceeding the number predicted by the organizers. At the venue, special glasses, designed to protect the eyes, quickly sold out. Accordingly, many participants shared glasses, using them in turn; others viewed the eclipsing sun using other means, such as solar projectors, pinhole projectors, and telescopes.

When the sun began eclipsing, participants felt the temperature began to drop. When the eclipse reached its climax, they cheered and applauded in excitement as they viewed the thin outer ring of the sun, shining like a golden ring.

Following the observation event, a



The annular solar eclipse viewed from Kwasan Observatory

lecture was given at the Clock Tower Centennial Hall. The 500-seat hall was filled to capacity, with the audience also enjoying a live music performance by Kitaro, and beautiful video images of space. In addition, a remote presentation was offered by the Hida Observatory in Gifu Prefecture.

## A Kyoto University Student Team Wins Second Prize at the Third International Contest of Applications in Nano/Micro Technology (iCAN'12)

(July 6—7, 2012)



Prize awarding ceremony

A team of Kyoto University engineering students (the TBT Team) won second prize at the third International Contest of Applications in Nano/Micro Technology (iCAN'12), held in Beijing on July 6-7, 2012. The team comprised five freshmen (Atsushi Nakano, Junya Suzuki, Naoyuki Tamura, Daimon Matsui, and Daisuke Takagi), all from the Nano/Micro System Laboratory in the master's course of the Graduate School of Engineering.

In the contest, participants proposed various application ideas for Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) and demonstrated the performance of their prototypes.

The TBT Team developed the Multi Exercise Assist System (MEAS), a system that assists in communicating an instructor's advice accurately to trainees in sports and rehabilitation training. To use this system, both the instructor and trainee wear ultra-compact acceleration sensors on their arms, legs and waist. The sensors measure the movements of both the instructor and trainee, and if the trainee's movements differ from those of the instructor, the MEAS offers verbal instructions to the trainee. In this way, the system assists the trainee to imitate the instructor's motions precisely.

During the two-day contest period, participating teams displayed their

prototypes at their respective booths. In addition to the judges who evaluated the participants' presentations, visitors to those booths voted for products they regarded as being the best. TBT Team members believe that they were able to win second prize because all members fulfilled their tasks according to their respective roles as well as the schedule set for each task.



Multi Exercise Assist System (MEAS), developed by the TBT Team



# Recent Solar Activity

## 1. Solar Activity and Earth

Sunspots on the photosphere are accompanied in their vicinity by eruptions known as solar flares. Solar flares emit high-energy particles, electromagnetic waves of all frequencies, ranging from gamma rays to radio waves, as well as a large amount of plasma accompanying shock waves. The energy release of a large flare reaches  $10^{25}$  joule within one hour or so, which is equivalent to the heat required to boil the Pacific Ocean instantly. On the one hand, the Sun benefits all species of life on Earth; on the other hand, the Sun's stormy phenomena, such as solar flares, affect people's lives and the terrestrial magnetosphere, causing geomagnetic storms, auroras, devastating damage to power transmission systems, and artificial satellite malfunctions. Consequently, it is greatly important for the sustenance of modern civilization to be able to forecast plasma and magnetic field conditions around the Earth as space weather. Studies of large solar flares are of vital importance from the perspective of space weather studies.

The number of sunspots and the frequency of solar flares increase and decrease in 11-year cycles (Fig. 1). In the past, however, there were periods of several decades when sunspots seldom occurred. In contrast, the second half of the 20th

century was a time when a substantially large number of sunspots appeared, as compared with the last 10,000 years. It is known that over thousands of years, solar activity has undergone irregular variation. Scientists have discovered that such slow changes in solar activity may have affected the Earth's climate. For example, global cooling occurred when there were few sunspots over a long period of time.

## 2. Recent Solar Activity and Solar Flare Observation at Hida Observatory

The number of sunspots was low in 2008 and 2009, an anomalous minimum for the first time in 100 years. Solar activity resumed in about 2010. Large solar flares began appearing in the current solar cycle (Sunspot Cycle 24). The Hida Observatory, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University observes solar flares using the state-of-the-art solar magnetic activity research telescope (SMART, Fig. 2). On August 9, September 6 and September 7, 2011 (universal time), the observatory successfully observed large flares for the first time in years.

On August 9, 2011 when a large solar flare occurred, shock waves transmitted concomitantly with the flare through the corona, and induced vibrations of the solar prominence, were simultaneously

observed for the first time in history (Fig. 3a). On September 6, the observatory also observed a large flare and vibrations of many solar filaments (top view of prominences) distant from the point of flare occurrence. Comparison of the observation with ultraviolet images of the solar corona taken from an artificial satellite revealed the actual state of hydromagnetic waves propagating through the corona, entailing magnetic field compression. Moreover, the new optical system (high-speed flare imager) installed on SMART in a joint research program between Kyoto University and the Solar-Terrestrial Environment (STE) Laboratory, Nagoya University, successfully captured large solar flares on September 6 and 7. The high-speed flare imager offers the world's highest temporal resolution for observation, keeping track of extremely short-period flare fluctuations. Both flares presented short-period (some 20 seconds) brightening (Figs. 3c and 3d) in the continuum spectra, as well as in the chromospheric spectra emitted by ordinary flares, suggesting the occurrence of extremely high-energy particles. In addition, huge plasma ejections were observed (Fig. 3b). A solar flare is considered as a large group of energy releases, fluctuating by seconds. Future studies are expected to

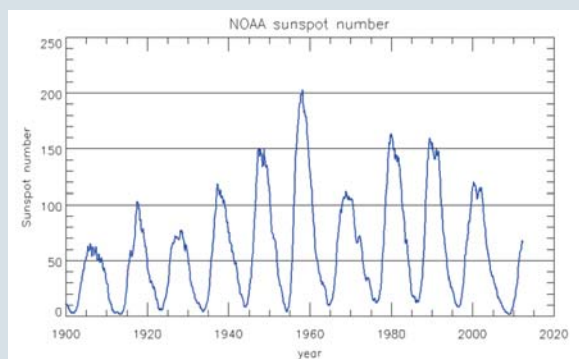


Fig. 1 Number of sunspots in the past 100 years.

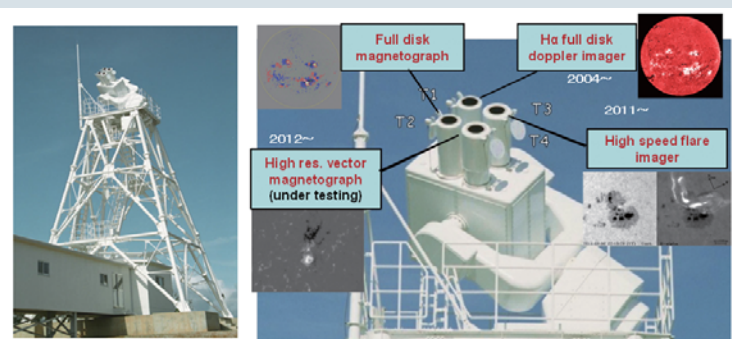


Fig. 2 SMART telescope at Hida Observatory.

reveal details about solar flare eruptions through spatially and temporally high-resolution observations, as explained above.

The energy of a solar flare is believed to come from the magnetic field that penetrates into the photosphere and is present throughout the corona. More specifically, it is interpreted that the gas moving in the photosphere twists and elongates the magnetic field lines, resulting in accumulation of magnetic field distortion, a solar flare being an eruption that relaxes the accumulated distortion in a burst. Solar flares resemble massive earthquakes that occur as a result of sudden release of strains accumulated in tectonic plates. To understand the mechanism of solar flares and forecast their occurrence, close observation of distortions in the magnetic field is important. SMART incorporates a newly developed device (magnetograph) designed for accurate observation of the magnetic field (both

field strength and direction) of the photosphere. Fig. 4 shows the magnetic field of an active region acquired by the magnetograph. In the magnetic field map, black and white areas, respectively, represent the north and south poles. Detailed analysis of these data should enable the researcher to quantitatively determine the energy accumulated in the magnetic field and elucidate conditions that lead to solar flare eruption.

In Solar Cycle 24, the Sun has begun to have sunspots and generate flares; however, sunspot group activity appears to be generally low compared with preceding activity cycles. In some reports, solar activity has already reached a peak in the northern hemisphere. Some researchers speculate that future solar

activity will be low for an extended period of time. In addition to studies of solar flares, what will comprise solar activity in the future remains a focus of attention.

## Kiyoshi ICHIMOTO

- Born in 1957
- Field of specialization: Solar Physics
- Completed doctoral program, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
- Ph.D., Kyoto University
- Professor, Kwasan and Hida Observatories, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University

**Through philosophy books, he acquired the attitude of a truth seeker, which he maintains in his present studies.**

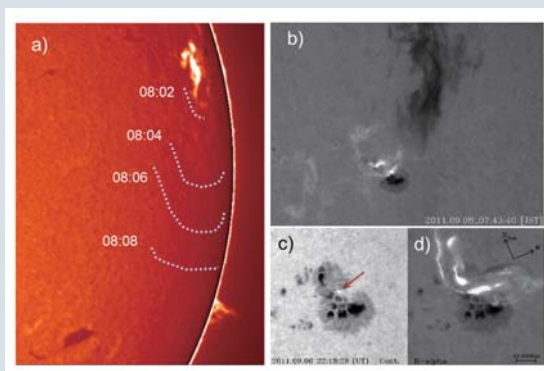
In his childhood, Professor Ichimoto wondered about things he encountered in everyday life: "How does a radio receiver produce sound?" "How does a magnet attract iron?" Later, when he was a high school student, he wanted to know the truth behind things and was absorbed in reading philosophy books, including Descartes' *Discourse on Method*. Driven by his desire to clarify the fundamental truth, he became interested in natural phenomena and subsequently in outer space. Since he began observing the Sun as a graduate student, he experienced a real thrill in conducting

research. Dynamic solar activity involving frequent explosions and the release of enormous energy completely altered his previous impression that outer space was "static."

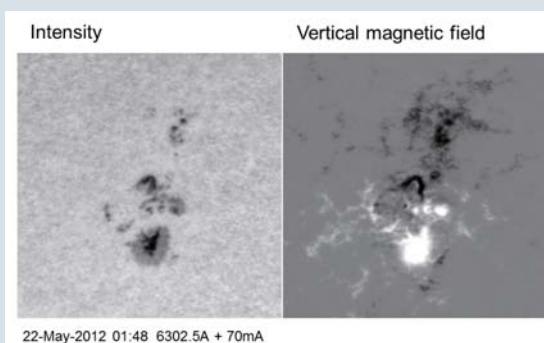
Professor Ichimoto currently spends most of the year at Kyoto University's Hida Observatory in Gifu Prefecture. The domeless solar telescope of the Hida Observatory offers a world-class spatial resolution among ground-based observatories. Surface explosions known as flares occur frequently on the Sun. Shock waves and plasma released into space as a result of solar flares influence the geomagnetic field. Professor Ichimoto's efforts are currently directed toward elucidating the mechanisms behind electromagnetic plasma phenomena in space and solar activity-related phenomena, by analyzing the phenomenon of solar flares. If it becomes possible to predict the timing and scale of solar flares, human beings can fully prepare for effects of solar flares on the Earth. There is a possibility of space weather forecasting to

considerably higher accuracy than before.

Professor Ichimoto is committed to contributing to advances in future space studies, and is enthusiastically working on developing novel observation techniques and training his successors. As he says with a smile. "The mysteries of space are infinite."



**Fig. 3. a: Flare on Aug. 9 and propagating shock front; b: Prominence eruption associated with flare on Sep. 7; c and d: Continuum (arrow) and H $\alpha$  emissions from flare on Sep. 6.**



**Fig. 4 Brightness at 6302.6 Å (left) and line-of-sight component of magnetic field (right) of sunspot group on May 22, 2012. Data taken by the new SMART magnetograph.**





## Ethics and “Face”

One of my research themes concerns the thought of Emmanuel Levinas (1906—95), a philosopher who developed his career in France. In the spring of 2011, I introduced his thought during a series of public lectures at Kyoto University, known as *Shunju* (spring and autumn) lectures. In this article, I would like to outline my presentation at that time.

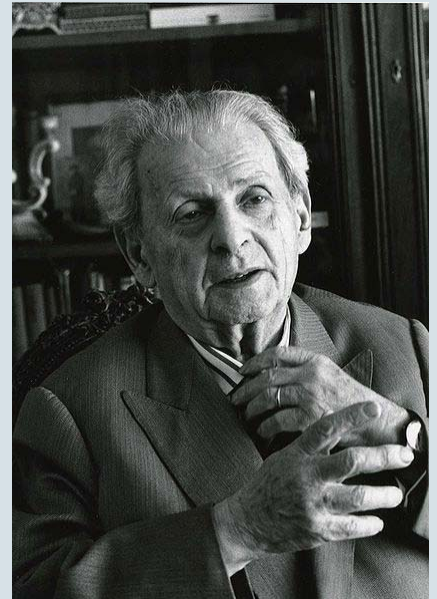
Underlying Levinas’ thought is his original interpretation of ethics. Levinas believed that if you feel moral responsibility for someone before your eyes, it will be an ethically fundamental experience for you. He attempts to reconstruct morality on the basis of the analysis of such experiences. One of his key concepts is known as “Face” (visage), which is, roughly speaking, the name he gives for these types of experiences. If you encounter someone who is suffering and needs help, you are likely to feel that you should help that person, even if you are not responsible for his suffering. You are likely to consider, however, the extent to which you should help him. Is it enough to render assistance within the range of your capacity? Or must you help him at any cost? To help you understand this, I will give you a more concrete example.

Imagine that while you are strolling along a street you happen to see a house on fire. To your astonishment, there is a young boy inside the house. Although the flames are spreading, there are no signs of fire engines

approaching. If you try to rescue the boy, you put your own life at risk. It tears at your heart to see the boy threatened by approaching death amidst the flames. You may feel that you must rescue the boy, even though it might cost your own life. According to Levinas, that sense of obligation represents your *responsibility* for the boy. Because of that sense of obligation, you are responsible for rescuing him, even at the cost of your life.

Needless to say, society does not force you to fulfill that responsibility. The belief that you must save the boy’s life at the cost of your own is based on the assumption that his life is more important than yours. This assumption conflicts with the principle of equality, which modern liberal democratic societies uphold as a basic norm. Levinas, however, does not consider that social norms or social ethics reflect true ethics. According to him, true ethics are revealed to one only through one’s own experience of “Face,” which is an essential ethical experience. It follows that you are not equal to the other. Or in other words, your life is preceded by that of the other. This is true, Levinas argues, even though such an asymmetrical relationship is not accepted in liberal democratic society.

At the scene of the fire, imagine that there are many other people watching the fire who hear the boy’s cries for help. Levinas believes that these spectators are not responsible. He claims that you cannot shift your responsi-



Emmanuel Levinas

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bility to them, because, in a sense, you have been “chosen” for the mission. From among many spectators, you have been *chosen* to save the boy. You may desire to know why you have been chosen. You might like to ask why you alone should bear the responsibility. What are the grounds for this selection? According to Levinas, there are no grounds, at least from an objective viewpoint, since there is no significant difference between you and the boy, or between you and the other spectators. Like all the other spectators, you are an ordinary person, neither exceptionally good nor evil.

If there are any grounds for imposing the responsibility on you, they reside in the very fact that you feel responsible for saving the boy’s life at any cost. This feeling is subjective, and we know that subjective feelings are sometimes misleading.

Your sense of responsibility might be illusory, created by a sentimental mood in your encounter with the critical scene. In any case, subjective grounds are too weak and unreliable a basis upon which to risk your life.

As I have indicated thus far, it is never easy to accept the idea that you are responsible for the other at any cost. First of all, this responsibility demands too much of you, and is difficult to fulfill. Next, the concept that you are chosen and exceptional does

not comply with commonly accepted ethics. It is difficult to rationally understand that you are exceptional, because this conception lacks objective grounds. Although there are many elements that make the command of “Face” difficult and unacceptable, the greatest obstacle resides in the fact that it disturbs rational understanding. You can refuse the command of “Face,” claiming that it is not based on truth. In a sense, it is not difficult to deny its being true. You can think of many logical grounds for

such denial: objectively, there is no difference between the value of you and the other. This notion is supported by society. On the other hand, if you choose to obey the command of “Face,” guided by your sense of responsibility, you will gain no support. It is a narrow and difficult path to take. You will be guided along it only by the feeble voice of “Face.” This is the path that Levinas encourages you to follow.

## Yoshiyuki SATO

- Born in 1962
- Field of specialization: Phenomenology, Ethics
- Completed master program, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University
- Ph.D., Kyoto University
- Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies

**“Do we really need classes on ethics?” Professor Sato would probably be delighted to hear a student ask such a question.**

When Professor Sato was in junior high school, he was obliged to stay in a hospital for several months. Even after leaving the hospital, his physical exercise was restricted. This naturally led him to spend most of his time reading. After entering senior high school, he became increasingly interested in studies of the inner self, which opened a path to studies of philosophy. At first he was deeply impressed by the works by Jean-Paul Sartre, whose thoughts of existentialism once swept the world of thought. However, as Professor Sato has said, he began to feel that Sartre’s uncompromising approach was more or less suffocating for him, since Sartre, in searching for the idea of ultimate freedom, rigorously demanded that each individual autonomously select an action to take, and take responsibility for that selection. Professor Sato’s comment about his own boyhood indicates that he was

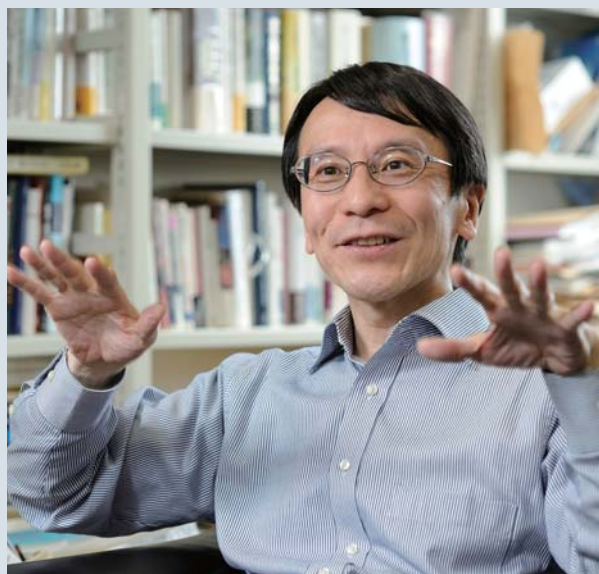
a sensitive boy, who responded seriously to books he read.

Subsequently, he began to pay keen attention to works by Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Emmanuel Levinas. Since then, he has been researching French phenomenological philosophy. Kyoto University, for its part, was once home to the Kyoto School of philosophy, founded by Kitaro Nishida. Fostering many leading philosophers, the University led studies of philosophy in Japan. Even today, this tradition continues to inspire many researchers at the University to work for the Japanese community of philosophers. “I myself do not have that strong sense of responsibility for the tradition, but being a faculty member of Kyoto University, I feel a sort of pressure of the tradition, that encourages me,” Professor Sato has said.

The Professor’s lectures have won high acclaim from his students for being easy to understand. For instance, his class on “Introduction to Ethics” (a common subject for students throughout the University) is so popular that some 200 students attend the classes. On the other hand, Professor Sato himself is not very much satisfied

with the attitude of his students. He has said, “Students should delve deeper into why morals should be observed, and why they observe morals. Don’t they feel it strange to be taught ethics in classes? If they do, they should ask me why, or start an argument. This might trigger heated discussions about the essence of ethics.”

Although Professor Sato maintained a friendly manner throughout the interview, responding to the editor’s questions by using easy terms, when he gave this final statement, his eyes revealed the light of a philosopher who questions every issue.





## Variety of Economic Policy Outcomes and the Role of Institutions

Although I have been involved in the study of various economic issues for more than 25 years, my research does not exactly fit the popular image of an economist, i.e. someone who uses abstract mathematical models to analyze purely economic phenomena. Ever since I became a student at the Economic Faculty of Moscow State University in 1982, my interests have transcended the borders of orthodox economics, reaching toward history, political science, sociology, culture and international relations. Since then, I have also been more interested in the practical applications of theories, rather than in the theories themselves. As I believe in the importance of finding solutions to real life problems, I try to better understand the problems “on the ground” by doing fieldwork, and then giving policy suggestions.

My longstanding interest in the role of institutions dates back to the years 1991-1992, when I was a researcher at the Center for Strategic Studies in Sofia, Bulgaria. This was a time when the first effects of the market-oriented reforms in the former socialist countries could be felt. I asked myself why, in spite of the fact that they were implementing similar economic reforms, the outcomes varied so much across countries in Eastern Europe. For example, the reforms aimed at bringing infla-

tion down or stabilizing the banking sector were quite successful in Poland, but ended in failure in Bulgaria and Romania. Later, while I was doing research for my Ph.D. at Kanazawa University in Japan, I encountered the same problem: why has industrial policy in postwar Japan been relatively effective in promoting economic development, whereas similar policies have led to disastrous results in Latin America and South Asia?

My answer to the above questions is that economic policies or reforms are embedded in country-specific institutions. By “institutions,” I mean the durable social rules that shape the incentives of actors (for instance, company managers, government officials, politicians) in a particular society. The institutions of a particular country are not just the formal rules (such as laws or government regulations); they are also the informal, unwritten rules (social norms, prevailing mentality or shared beliefs). Unlike the formal institutions, a country's informal institutions are the product of its history and culture, and are usually quite difficult to change in the span of a decade or two.

The market transition in Eastern Europe involved the large-scale importation of economic policies and institutions from the US and Western Europe. It also meant a geopolitical transformation, i.e. a switch

from the Russian sphere of geopolitical influence to the Western European one. In my view, the success or failure of market transition in Eastern Europe can be explained not by the speed of economic reforms (the so-called “shock therapy vs. gradualism” argument), but by the presence or absence of an informal institution called “a common project.” In other words, whether at the onset of transition in a certain society there was or was not a widely shared consensus regarding the above-mentioned import of economic policies and institutions, as well as the geopolitical transformation.

I argue that, whereas in countries like Poland and Hungary such “a common project” (also known as “return to Europe”) existed around 1989-1990, it was non-existent in Bulgaria and Romania until the end of the 1990s. The reasons for this are related to the respective country's history of socialist rule from the end of World War II until the collapse of socialism in 1989. Furthermore, in Japan from the end of World War II until around the start of the so-called “bubble economy” in 1986-1987, there was “a common project” set up in a bid to catch up with the US, despite Japan's almost complete lack of natural resources. This “common project” was instrumental in bringing success to Japan's postwar modernization efforts.



**Dimiter IALNAZOV**

- Born in 1962
- Field of specialization: Institutional Economics, The Political Economy of Transition
- Completed doctoral degree at Kanazawa University
- Ph.D., Kanazawa University
- Associate Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

**“I teach many international students from various countries. They are all excellent students with unique perspectives, which helps my own research activities tremendously.”**

Dr. Ialnazov's home country, Bulgaria, was formerly under a socialist regime. As a boy, he often played cowboys; the Bulgarian version of Western dramas, however, interpreted Americans as suppressors of indigenous people. After graduating from a prestigious high school, attended by many children from families of executives in the Bulgarian Communist Party, he entered Moscow State University in 1982. In 1985, when Mikhail Gorbachev, then the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, initiated the perestroika reforms, Dr. Ialnazov became interested in relations between social changes and economy and began studying economics from this viewpoint.

Upon completion of a master's program in Moscow, he returned to Bulgaria and began serving as a researcher at Sofia University. In 1989, he experienced firsthand the East European Revolutions, which utterly shook the world. Observing his own country undergoing rapid transformation from a socialist to capitalist economy, he selected Japan's capitalist system as his research theme. Since Japan's economic policies, implemented immediately after

the end of World War II, led to high economic growth in a short period, he believed that studying Japan's model of capitalism would be helpful for East European developing countries. In 1993, he entered Kanazawa University, from which he received his doctoral degree. Since then, he has been engaged in research in Japan. Since 2001, he has been teaching at Kyoto University. He told the editor of *Raku-Yu*, “I hope to continue working at Kyoto University, since it has an excellent research environment.”

Although Dr. Ialnazov has been in Japan for nearly 20 years, he has been too busy to visit temples and shrines, in which he has keen interest. Despite his busy life as an academic, he also serves as a director of the Kyoto-Nara EU Association—an NPO established with the aim of promoting friendship between Japanese and European people. “Most Japanese people do not know much about European countries other than the UK, Germany and France. European people's knowledge about Japan is also limited. So, we must try to learn more about each other,” he said to the editor, smiling broadly. According to Dr. Ialnazov, he learnt the enjoyment of getting to know strangers from his experiences in childhood, when he often changed schools. This may explain why he was so friendly throughout the interview.

**“This is a very interesting international cooperation project. In addition to promoting a spirit of self-support and independence among local people, the project helps me develop my own view of humankind.”**

In Kyoto, there is an NPO named *Michi-Bushin-Bito*\* (Community Road Empowerment, CORE), which was founded by Professor Makoto Kimura of the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, and others. The NPO dispatches its members to rural farming villages in developing countries such as the Philippines, Kenya and Uganda, to help villagers build and improve farm roads and irrigation ponds. The NPO's projects are very unique in that, instead of using heavy machines, its members use *donou*\*\* (sandbags), which are traditionally used in civil engineering projects in Japan. The use of *donou* enables construction of robust facilities at relatively low cost, without the need for advanced technologies. Moreover, since building materials and tools are locally available, once the *donou* technique has been transferred to local people, they can continue working without assistance from overseas. The editor of *Raku-Yu* had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Yusuke Miyazaki, a student of the Faculty of Engineering, who participated in a project that the NPO carried out in Kenya during the summer of 2011. He told the editor about the purpose of the NPO's activities and what he has learned from his experiences in Kenya.

*Michi Bushin Bito* website: <http://michibushinbito.ecnet.jp/eindex2.html>

\*Literally, “*michi*” means road, “*bushin*,” autonomous projects by residents; and “*bito*,” people.

\*\**Donou*: Sandbags, or cloth bags containing sand and soil, used in civil engineering projects.

**I understand that the Japanese term “*bushin*” connotes a type of community spirit that is handed down in Japan. Could you explain in a little more detail?**

Let me explain by giving you an example. Beside Honen-ike Dam in Kagawa Prefecture there is a stone monument bearing an inscription stating that the dam was constructed by the local people for the local people. Before the dam's construction, the river had frequently flooded nearby farms and paddies. Since farmers in the region had worked together to construct the dam, they were able to increase their crop yields and secure stable incomes. This is a model case, in which local farmers worked autonomously to resolve their common problem. In this sense, the dam project embodies the spirit of “*bushin*” as an autonomous project by local people. The essential element of “*bushin*” is the spirit of autonomy. In *Michi-Bushin-Bito* activities, members of the NPO do not simply construct rural roads for people in developing countries. They go to a rural village in a developing country – Kenya for

instance – to show local people how to construct, or improve, a road. In fact, we place the utmost priority on empowering local people, by inspiring them to master techniques for building or improving their farm roads, and autonomously resolving their problems. As one means of enabling local people in this way, the NPO transfers the *donou* technique.

**Do local people understand the spirit of “*bushin*” from the beginning?**

They understand the need of repairing roads, so in the beginning, they are eager to learn from us. However, it is difficult for them to continue to work in the spirit of “*bushin*” unless they understand that the projects will help improve their own living standard. So we demonstrate best practices, or concrete examples in which rural road projects implemented through the concerted efforts of villagers led to the alleviation of poverty. We show them, for instance, a case in which a rural road improvement project enabled the distribution of crops to other districts and helped farmers start their own agricultural business, which in turn brought about higher incomes and allowed them to let their children go to school. Showing such a successful case helps convince local people to work for road improvement on a continual basis.

**How did you come to be involved with the NPO?**

During my first year at the university, I went to Vietnam, Taiwan and Morocco by myself. In my second year at university I took Professor Kimura's class—Introduction to International Technical Cooperation. In the first class, Professor Kimura told us that he had crossed the Sahara Desert by bicycle, so I showed him a photograph of myself, taken in Sahara Desert. Probably he was interested in me, since he asked if I would like to join his activity in Kenya.

**What sort of impression did you get about the NPO when Professor Kimura first explained it to you?**

I was impressed that its activities are organized extremely rationally. I found that *Michi-Bushin-Bito* sets concrete goals and guidelines that clearly indicate targets for each respective stage. I learned that members actually follow those guidelines. As far as I know, this is different from the activities of other volunteer groups.

**In your report on activities in Kenya, you wrote that you felt very “refreshed” because the experience in Kenya transformed your conventional values. Could you explain that comment?**

Although I have lived only 20 years thus far, I have met many people and developed my own views regarding

human beings. However, prior to my travels most people I met were Japanese. In Africa, I encountered many people who were very different from Japanese. This was an experience that completely transformed my previous image of human beings. I said that I felt very “refreshed,” because I felt that I had been released from my past views of people and life. I could start my life again, revising my old ideas and views about people, and once more thinking over what kind of life I truly hope to lead, and with what types of people I hope to work. I believe that one's view of human beings determines one's approach to studies. I have realized that understanding people is essential for my future development.

**Do you have any specific plans regarding your future path?**

I want to make my life “interesting,” as Professor Kimura often states. By “interesting,” I mean something like this: Imagine that some people cannot resolve their problems simply because of a lack of appropriate technology. If I can offer the technology they need, and if they can resolve their problems with that technology, then *that* would make my life worthy and “interesting.” I don't have to lead others or their projects. Rather, I can just support them in working to resolve their problems autonomously. I still don't have any concrete plan for my future. At the moment I am seeking my future path. As the first step in that quest, I will travel along the Silk Road by myself. I believe that it is important for me to visit various places, encounter different people, ponder what I really want to do, and search for the place where I can realize my vision.



**Yusuke MIYAZAKI**

• Born in 1991

• Currently third-year student at Undergraduate School of Global Engineering, the Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University



## Introducing The Kyoto-DC Global Career Development Program for International Organizations

February 26—March 6, 2012

In February 2012, Kyoto University launched this short-term study abroad program successfully with generous assistance and cooperation of the S&R Foundation and the Washington, D.C. Kyoto University Alumni Chapter. The program aims to cultivate talented individuals capable of succeeding on the global stage by providing Kyoto University's students with opportunities for training at international institutions in Washington D.C. For the program's first year, three graduate students and three undergraduate students were selected through a screening process conducted by Kyoto University and the S&R Foundation.

The group visited the international and

US organizations including the World Bank, NASA, and National Institute of Health (NIH) and attended lectures and seminars by researchers and specialists. They also had discussion on career development in the globalizing world with American University student and an intensive English lesson. Through this experience, the students took a great step to be internationally active in the future.

(The S&R Foundation is a non-profit organization in Washington D.C. that helps young people with exceptional talent in the sciences and art who contribute to the promotion of

mutual understanding between cultures Dr. Sachiko Kuno, Kyoto University class of 1977 alumna, serves as president.)



The group photo at the orientation

## Kyoto University Students and Staff Participate in the 13th AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest at Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City

June 24—30, 2012

The 13th The ASEAN University Network (AUN) Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest was held at Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City on June 24–30, 2012. From Kyoto University, Ms. Chizuru Tada, a second year student in Kyoto University's Faculty of Integrated Human Studies, Mr. Yuji Nakamura, a second year student in the Faculty of Education, and one staff member from the Research and International Affairs Department travelled to Ho Chi Minh City to participate in the event.

As an event open to ASEAN+3 member countries, the AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest included participants from Japan, China and Korea. In total, Sixty-four students, faculty and staff members from twenty-two universities participated.

The first half of the event consisted of the Young Speakers Contest, which

featured speeches focusing on this year's theme of "Global Citizenship and Intercultural Competence." Ms. Tada represented Kyoto University in the contest, her meticulously prepared speech receiving great acclaim from the panel of international judges.

The speech contest was followed by the summit-style Educational Forum, in which the participants drew on their countries' diverse perspectives, and shared ideas, analyses and suggestions relating to the event's theme. Mr. Nakamura was the Japanese representative in the forum. He presented his opinion and analysis of the forum's theme, and shared ideas about the future advancement of ASEAN+3 relations, which he had developed in collaboration with Ms. Tada.

The final day of the event was dedicated to cultural exchange

activities, and the Kyoto University delegation introduced several aspects of Japanese culture to the other participants, including the correct way to perform a Japanese bow, and a performance of a traditional soran-bushi work song. The cultural exchange event provided a good opportunity for the young ASEAN+3 representatives to deepen their mutual understanding of each other's cultures, and will surely benefit those who go on to pursue international careers.



Kyoto University students at the Young Speakers Contest

## The 18th Kyoto University International Symposium: Partnering Asian Academics toward Human Security Development

May 24—25, 2012

The 18th Kyoto University International Symposium: Partnering Asian Academics toward Human Security Development (AUN-KU Symposium 2012) was held at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand on May 24–25, 2012. During the course of its two days, the symposium was attended by over ninety participants from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos and India.

The symposium was held in collaboration with the Asean University Network (AUN) and Chulalongkorn University. The AUN is a network of twenty-six leading universities from the ASEAN member countries, which was formed in 1995 after being proposed at the 4th ASEAN Summit in 1992. In 2009, Kyoto University signed a general memorandum of academic cooperation and exchange with the AUN.

The symposium opened with

addresses by Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, deputy executive director of the AUN, Executive Vice-President Nishisaka of Kyoto University and President Pirom Kamolratanakul of Chulalongkorn University.

In addition to the two keynote speeches, four academic sessions were held, each focusing on a different topic relating to human security: infectious diseases, disaster prevention, food and water security, and energy and the environment. The sessions' presentations were followed by lively discussions which cut across national and academic boundaries.

Professor Hideaki Ohgaki of Kyoto University's Institute of Advanced Energy summarized the achievements of the symposium, and proposed action

plans to further promote education and research cooperation between the AUN and academic institutions throughout Southeast Asia. The proposals received the positive approval of the symposium participants. Following the wrap-up session, the symposium was brought to a close by an address by Vice-President Junichi Mori of Kyoto University.



Symposium participants

## Chinese Minister of Education visits Kyoto University

May 24, 2012

An eight-member delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Guiren Yuan, minister of education of the People's Republic of China, visited Kyoto University for a meeting with President Hiroshi Matsumoto. The Minister's delegation was accompanied on their visit by seven members of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan.

Upon arrival at Kyoto University's Yoshida Campus, the delegation visited the university main library, where Professor Yuzo Ohnishi, executive vice-president for external affairs and alumni relations and Professor Takashi Hikihara, vice director-general of the Kyoto University Library Network introduced some of the library's valuable holdings. Following that, the party moved to the Clock Tower Centennial Hall for the meeting with President Matsumoto. Joining President Matsumoto for the meeting were Professor Toshiyuki Awaji,

executive vice-president for education; Professor Ohnishi, executive vice-president for external affairs and alumni relations; Professor Kohei Shiota, executive vice-president for general affairs and personnel; Professor Kiyoshi Yoshikawa, executive vice-president for research and Professor Norihiko Akamatsu of the Center for the Promotion of Excellence in higher Education. After an introduction to Kyoto University and its various facilities by President Matsumoto, the members discussed the future of academic cooperation between China and Japan.

After the meeting, the visitors were invited to a lunch reception at the Seifuso Villa, a traditional Japanese villa owned by Kyoto University. Topics broached over lunch

included educational philosophy and university operation, with Minister Yuan sharing some of his experience as a former president of Beijing Normal University. After lunch, President Matsumoto guided the appreciative visitors on a tour of the Seifuso Villa's picturesque Japanese garden.



The delegation visits the Seifuso Villa





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# P R O M E N A D E

京都消遥

## Takasegawa Canal: A Stream of Calm Throughout Many Upheavals in Kyoto

The Takasegawa, an 8-meter-wide canal, runs from Kiyamachi-Nijo (west of the Kamo River) to Fushimi, a distance of some 11 kilometers. It was constructed in 1611 by Ryoi Suminokura (1554—1614) and his son, Soan (1571—1632). They funded the project to facilitate water transportation between Kyoto and Fushimi. Shortly after completion of the canal, small buoyant boats with flat bottoms, known as *Takase-bune*, were used for transporting various goods. In its heyday, the canal functioned as an important transportation artery; its role, however, eventually waned, and it now is only about 10 centimeters deep.

A number of historical incidents have taken place in the vicinity of the canal around Sanjo Street, including conflicts between parties supporting the Tokugawa Shogunate government (1603—1868) and other parties intending to overthrow it. Extant historical monuments in this district include a lumber wholesaler shop, named Suya, which served as a branch office of Kaientai, a trading company founded by Ryoma Sakamoto, a leader of the movement to overthrow the Tokugawa Shogunate, who was assassinated shortly before the Meiji Restoration (1868). Close to Ichi-no-funairi (the first inlet along the canal) in Nijo, there was an official residence of the Choshu domain (now Yamaguchi Prefecture), which led the anti-Tokugawa movement. On the site stands a statue of Kogoro Katsura (also known as Takayoshi Kido), a leading figure in overthrowing the Shogunate government and establishing the Meiji government. Serving as minister of education and internal affairs for the Meiji government, he directed the establishment of various new systems. To the south of his statue are two stone monuments, standing at the sites where two leading figures of the restoration struggle were attacked separately. One is for Masujiro Omura, a military scientist who established Japan's modern army. In 1869 he was attacked at an inn near the Takasegawa Canal, and died from the wound a few months later. The other monument commemorates Shozan Sakuma, another military scientist, who during the twilight years of the Tokugawa Shogunate government declared that Japan should open to the rest of the world. In his time, he influenced many activists, including Ryoma Sakamoto. In 1864, he also was attacked near the Takasegawa Canal and died on the spot.



Ichi-no-funairi: Along the Takasegawa Canal, several small inlets called funairi were constructed to berth boats. At Ichi-no-funairi (lit. the first inlet), the only inlet extant today, a reproduction of a *Takase-bune* is anchored.



Two monuments commemorating Masujiro Omura and Shozan Sakuma



Suya: On the second floor of this wholesale shop is a room where Ryoma Sakamoto once stayed. Today, the room is open to the public. In front of the shop stands a stone monument, indicating that Ryoma Sakamoto once hid himself there. In 1867, he left Suya for neighboring Omiya. A few days later, he was assassinated in Omiya, at the age of 33.



If you follow the canal to the south of bustling Shijo Street, you will find that the canal side is so quiet that even the sound of the stream can be heard. Because of this calm and quiet atmosphere, this area is an ideal spot for strolling.